

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided generally to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5-7 have been amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Advisory Action dated August 17, 2009, are respectfully requested in view of the remarks below.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 2

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Weichmann, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,524 B1) in view of Endo, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,637,327 B2) in further view of Shiraishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,999,200 B2).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite generating the print data obtained by binarizing the print data subjected to the correction in terms of elongation or contraction.

As pointed out by the Examiner, Endo prevents a defective printing product by adjusting an exposure position of a pixel of an image in accordance with a stretch amount of a printing paper sheet (corresponding to the trapezoidal correction).

In contrast, the present invention is characterized by the print data being subjected to elongation or contraction correction (trapezoidal correction) before the print data is binarized. None of cited references disclose or suggest this feature. As recited, print data is obtained by binarizing the print data subjected to the correction in terms of elongation or contraction. This eliminates the dot displacement problem discussed above. In addition, the present invention can omit the necessity of

correcting the imaging device, thereby improving reliability and reducing costs. The above mentioned features are supported by the Specification as filed (cf. [0005] and [0006]).

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5-7

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Endo, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,637,327 B2) in view of Weichmann, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,524 B1) in further view of Shiraishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,999,200 B2).

Claims 5-7 have each been amended similar to claim 1 to recite "...generat(e/ing) the print data obtained by binarizing..." Therefore, claims 5-7 are allowable over the cited references for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and the preceding arguments, the Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel at (650) 838-4382 to arrange for such a conference.

The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayments or charge any underpayments fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2207.

Dated: 10/6/2009

Respectfully submitted,

By Campbell Chiang
Campbell Chiang
Registration No.: 56,518

PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1208
Seattle, Washington 98111-1208
(650) 838-4300
(650) 838-4350 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicants

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer No. 22918